

subject matter covered by Group II will uncover art directed to Group I. Further, in searching for subject matter covered by Group I, the Examiner will uncover art pertinent to Group II, at least claim 20. There is significant overlap between the art to be searched, the overlap being an element having a surface to which are attached a plurality of piperazine functional groups. Because a search of this subject matter is required in order to satisfy Group II, and this search would include the subject matter of Group I, no additional burden is placed on the Examiner to search all claims of both Group I and Group II.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement between groups I and II is in order and is respectfully requested. Until the withdrawal of the requirement, Applicants' provisionally elect Group II for searching, with traverse.

The Office Action further sets forth an election of species at claim 3. The election of species is set forth as follows:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: groups R1-R10, chemical units and the polymer for Group I; and functional groups A, B, R1-R10, and the crosslinking compound. Applicants are required to elect an ultimate species for EACH of the listed classes of species.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated to which claims each species of Group I pertain. Further, technically Group II is not listed, though Applicants' presume the listing of "A, B, R1-R10, and the crosslinking compound" in the second part of the sentence pertain to Group II. Applicants note the crosslinking compound is A-L-B, so selecting a crosslinking compound necessarily defines A, B, and L.

Because Applicants have elected Group II with traverse in response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect species pertinent to Group II with traverse. In particular, Applicants elect with traverse the following species for initial examination, with the understanding the remaining species will be examined once these species are found to be allowable, Claim 17 being admitted by the Examiner to be generic:

- R1-R10 such that the piperazine functional groups form 1-(4-vinylbenzyl)piperazine, as set forth in claims 20 and 24; and
- crosslinking compound bis(vinylsulfonyl)methane set forth in claims 23 and 24; thereby specifying A, B, and L.

Should the restriction requirement be withdrawn, R1-R10 and the chemical group from Group I are elected with traverse such that the piperazine functional groups form 1-(4-vinylbenzyl)piperazine, as set forth in claim 15, and the polymer is elected with traverse to have a number average molecular weight between 2000 and 50,000AMU, as set forth in claims 11 and 12. As noted by the Examiner, claim 1 is generic.

Because no detail was provided in the Office Action, if Applicants have misinterpreted the Election of Species requirement, Applicants request further clarification in writing in a supplement Office Action, upon which notice Applicants will clarify the Election of Species.

Should the Examiner have any questions, or require anything further, she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.